

Open Call for 1 Assistant Researcher

We invite applications for an assistant researcher, funded by the Portuguese Research Council (Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia-FCT), to work on a 3-year joint-project between 1) UECE research centre, based at ISEG-UL and 2) CERIS/CESUR, based at IST-UL. The post holder will work with Professor Patricia Melo (ISEG-UL), Professor João de Abreu e Silva (IST-UL), Sofia Franco (Nova SBE) and other project researchers.

Project title	Transport Infrastructure and Urban Spatial Structure: Economic, Social & Environmental Effects (TiTuSS)
Duration of fellowship	18 months
Salary	989.70 €/month
Closing date for applications	17-03-2019
Starting date	As soon as possible

ABOUT THE PROJECT TiTuSS:

The main aim of TiTuSS is to create new knowledge on the relationship between transport improvements and urban spatial structure in Portugal, and how changes in this relationship can be better managed to enhance regional and national productivity together with more sustainable and inclusive growth.

The key objectives are:

1. To provide new evidence for Portugal, and also for Lisbon Metropolitan Area, on the effects of transport improvements on the urban spatial structure, particularly location patterns of the population and economic activities.
2. To provide new evidence for Portugal on the relationship between productivity and urban agglomeration externalities resulting from improvements to the transport network (i.e. wider economic impacts);
3. To provide new evidence for Portugal on the contribution of transportation infrastructure, particularly improvements in regional accessibility resulting from the expansion of the road network, to spatial cohesion, particularly a more sustainable and inclusive growth.

The objectives will be achieved by addressing the following research questions:

- To what extent has the expansion of Portugal's road network over the last 30 years altered patterns of urban spatial structure? How much has it contributed to patterns of suburbanisation and dispersion of economic activity?
- What is the magnitude of the productivity benefits from urban agglomeration economies induced through transport improvements, and have the benefits enlarged or reduced over time as a result of the expansion of the motorway network and associated changes in regional accessibility?
- To what extent have the improvements in regional accessibility levels that followed the extension of the motorway road network contributed to greater territorial cohesion, particularly to sustainable and inclusive growth?

The project's website: <https://rem.rc.iseg.ulisboa.pt/prj/tituss/>

JOB DESCRIPTION & RESPONSIBILITIES:

The main duties of the post holder include:

1. Develop and carry out theoretically informed and empirically grounded research focusing on the project topics described above, in particular: economic effects of transport investment and its relation with urban spatial structure;
2. Manage large datasets, particularly for longitudinal microdata, such as Quadros de Pessoal and Balanço Social;
3. Develop and implement advanced panel data statistical modelling, including spatial econometrics and causal inference techniques, using appropriate statistical software such Stata and/or R;
4. Prepare academic papers and presentations;
5. Carry out and develop collaborative research with other project colleagues and research groups;
6. Contribute to the organisation of project events and activities (e.g. seminars, workshops).

SELECTION CRITERIA:

To be eligible candidates must have an MSc degree in Economics, Economic Geography or similar fields with a strong quantitative focus. Candidates should have experience using secondary datasets and panel data econometric methods. Candidates will be evaluated against the criteria below:

Requirements	
Hold a master's degree in economics, geography, spatial planning, civil engineering or similar field with a strong quantitative focus, or have submitted the MSc thesis at the time of interview	Essential
Experience handling/managing secondary datasets, especially longitudinal datasets	Highly desirable
Experience and skills using panel data econometric techniques and relevant software (e.g. Stata, R)	Essential
High standard of written and spoken English	Essential
Good communication skills	Essential
Experience using transport accessibility modelling in GIS software (e.g. ArcGIS, QGIS)	Desirable
Experience working in a project team	Desirable
Project management skills	Desirable

LEGISLATION FRAMEWORK:

A fellowship contract will be celebrated according to the regulations defined by the Portuguese Research Council (Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia – FCT) in [Regulamento n.º 339/2015](#), following Estatuto do Bolseiro de Investigação approved by Law n.º 40/2004 and its amendments, namely Decree-Law No. 202/2012 of 27 August, Decree-Law No. 233/2012, Law No. 12/2013, and Decree-Law No. 89/2013.

SALARY

The fellowship amounts to € 989.70 month (12 months/year), according to the [standard values published by FCT](#). The fellowship holder will have a personal accident insurance and is entitled to adhere to the voluntary social insurance scheme ([Seguro Social Voluntário](#)), pursuant to Código dos Regimes Contributivos do Sistema Previdencial de Segurança Social. The fellowship will be paid monthly by bank transfer.

SELECTION PROCESS

Eligible applications will be evaluated by a three-member committee chaired by Professor Patricia Melo. Eligible applications will be ranked according to the job requirements listed above and a maximum of five applicants with an overall score above a pre-set threshold will be invited for an interview. Failure to identify suitable candidates with an overall score above the pre-set threshold will result in the cancellation of the advertisement for this job position.



APPLICATION DOCUMENTS:

- **Required documents:** Motivation letter, CV.
- Applications must be sent by e-mail to Patricia Melo (pmelo@iseg.ulisboa.pt) with the reference “UECE/02/SAICT/2019-TiTuSS/BIM-*applicants surname*”.